

GRAMMAR

Narrative tenses

1 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Andrew ¹ _____ (work) in his studio when suddenly he ² _____ (smell) smoke. He ran to the window, ³ _____ (open) it and saw that the house next door was on fire. He knew the house ⁴ _____ (be) vacant since the winter, but he thought he ⁵ _____ (see) some new neighbours going in and out that week. Andrew ⁶ _____ (phone) the fire brigade quickly and explained what ⁷ _____ (happen). While he ⁸ _____ (give) the telephone operator the details, someone ⁹ _____ (knock) loudly on the door. It was the new neighbour, who ¹⁰ _____ (come) to warn Andrew about the fire.

2 Match the sentence halves.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 As soon as my mum came into the room,... | a what was wrong. |
| 2 She asked me... | b she knew I had been crying. |
| 3 I told her I had... | c had forgotten our date! |
| 4 I explained we had arranged to meet at... | d seven o'clock, but he had stood me up. |
| 5 While I was explaining the story,... | e fallen out with my boyfriend. |
| 6 It was Alvaro. He... | f the phone rang. |

3 Choose the correct options to complete the text.

The man, the boy and the donkey

A father and his son were going to the market with their donkey. They ¹*were walking / walked* along beside the donkey, when a man walked passed them and said, 'Why don't you ride the donkey?' The father ²*was putting / put* the boy on the donkey and continued. As they ³*had passed / were passing* a group of men, one man asked the others if they ⁴*had seen / were seeing* the boy riding the donkey and the old man walking! So the son got off the donkey and his father got on. They ⁵*hadn't gone / weren't going* far when a woman, who ⁶*had been walking / were walking* behind them, ⁷*asked / had asked* the man, 'What do you have a donkey for? Why don't you both get on?' The poor man ⁸*didn't know / wasn't knowing* what to do, but he lifted his son up in front of him. By now, they ⁹*had come / came* to the town and a passer-by pointed at them and said aloud, 'Aren't you ashamed of overloading that poor animal?' The old man considered what to do. In the end, they cut down a tree, tied the donkey's legs to it and raised the tree trunk and the donkey to their shoulders and continued walking. When they ¹⁰*arrived / had arrived* at the bridge everybody ¹¹*was laughing / had been laughing* at them. Just then the donkey got one of his legs loose. In the struggle the animal fell off the bridge and drowned in the river. Then the father heard a man, who ¹²*had been following / followed* them, say, 'Try to please everyone and you will please no one'.

Past perfect continuous

4 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- The couple broke up after they...
a had been arguing for hours.
b had been kissing for hours.
- They had been going out together...
a for they were children.
b since they were children.
- They decided they...
a had been going out together for too long.
b were going out together for too long.
- The weather was bad. It had been raining all morning...
a so the ground was wet.
b so the ground was dry.
- Maxi and Pat were extremely hungry. They...
a had been eating non-stop for hours.
b had been working non-stop for hours.
- After they'd been shopping for a while,...
a they were still shopping.
b they were ready for a coffee break.

5 Write sentences using the prompts and the past perfect continuous.

- They / dance / for a long time.
They had been dancing for a long time.
- It / snow / all day / and / they / were frozen.
- They / queue / to see / the exhibition / for two hours.
- He / not study / Chinese / before / he / went / to China.
- Why / you wait / for so long?
- She / sleep / in that bed / for years / before buying a new one.
- I / consider / which TV to buy / until I saw this one.

Past perfect simple and continuous

6 Complete the text with the past perfect simple or continuous form of the verbs in the box.

• act • do • feel • happen • not/phone • plan • see

When I got to school on Monday, I could see all of my friends chatting together. They stopped talking as soon as they saw me. It wasn't the first time this ¹ _____ . I don't know if they realized I ² _____ them or if they even cared! My two best friends, Simon and Pete, ³ _____ really strangely for the some time. To make things worse, they ⁴ _____ me or even sent me a text message all weekend. I couldn't understand it at all. What ⁵ _____ I _____ to deserve this? I ⁶ _____ sad and depressed for a while, ever since Suzie and I broke up. I really needed my mates. Guess what happened next? As I was going into class, Pete explained what was going on. The guys ⁷ _____ a weekend away to help me get over Suzie. We were going to Brighton for some fun. They really are my mates after all!

7 Rewrite the sentences, using the words in brackets.

- They were still studying when I came back from the cinema. (four hours)
They had been studying for four hours when I came back from the cinema.
- They moved into this building in 2002, but they moved out in 2008. (before moving out)
- The last time Mary saw Jim and Jill was in 2003. (hadn't)
- David had dinner before we arrived. (By the time)
- They got married in 1989. They had twins in 1999. (been married)
- I had been considering leaving university for several months. (October)